

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00550 161214Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OC-06

CCO-00 PER-05 A-01 M-02 OPR-02 SY-04 SAM-01 SCSE-00

SCA-01 PPTE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 NIC-01 HEW-08 EB-11

COME-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 AID-20 SWF-02 DRC-01

FRB-03 /196 W

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O 161045Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2769

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK

UNCLAS LUANDA 0550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LUANDA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

REF: LUANDA 548

1. SUMMARY. CALM RESTORED; POPULACE BACK AT WORK JULY 16. TOLL JULY 15 WAS 12 DEAD, MORE THAN 60 INJURED. ARMY HAS FINALLY ADOPTED MEASURES TO MAINTAIN ORDER. NO DANGER TO AMCITS. AIRPORT OPERATING NORMALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS JULY 15: VIRTUALLY ENTIRE BLACK WORKING CLASS HEDED OR WAS INTIMIDATED INTO OBSERVING MDA-MPLA CALL TO UNCLASSIFIED

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STRIKE. SOME MINOR CLASHES OCCURED BETWEEN MOBS AND JITTERY

POLICE (NOT ARMY) AT EDGES OF MUCEQUES IN MID-MORNING. ONE RESULTED IN POLICEMAN LOSING HIS AUTOMATIC RIFLE (SIC). COINCIDENTALLY, UNARMED BUT UNIFORMED BLACK TROOPS ESTIMATED AT 1200 AND LED BY BLACK OFFICERS MARCHED IN ORDERLY FASHION FROM BARRACKS THROUGH ALVALADE SECTION (WHERE BULK OF AMCITS LIVE) TO GOVERNMENT HILL AND CINC HEADQUARTERS. PURPOSE OF MARCH WAS TO PETITION CINC ON A NUMBER OF POINTS HAVING TO DO WITH GREATER BLACK PARTICIPATION IN MAINTAINING ORDER IN MUCEQUES. WHILE BLACK TROOPS AND CINC WERE CONFERRING AT FORTRESS, TRAGEDY OCCURED ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. ANGRY MOB OF BLACK CIVILIANS (SEVERAL HUNDRED) ARMED WITH CLUBS AND ROCKS SOUGHT TO BREAK THROUGH WHITE MP BARRIER BLOCKING ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT HILL. WHEN MOB TRIED TO SNATCH A SECOND AUTOMATIC RIFLE, TROOPS OPENED FIRE, KILLING 12 AND WOUNDING OVER 60. (ACCORDING TO ONE INFORMANT TROOPS WERE FOLLOWING RIOT-CONTROL TACTICS: FIRST SHOT IN AIR, SECOND INTO GROUND, NEITHER MEANT TO KILL. BUT AT FIRST SHOT CROWD THREW THEMSELVES ON GROUND, IN LINE OF FIRE.)

3. THERE WERE SPORADIC INCIDENTS ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT CITY DURING MORNING AND AFTERNOON, BUT BY NIGHTFALL ORDER WAS RESTORED. ESTIMATED 3000 MOURNERS PARTICIPATED IN MASS FUNERAL FOR VICTIMS OF JULY 11-12 INCIDENTS DURING AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH SOME ANGRY MPLA AND FNLA BANNERS SEEN, FUNERAL PROCEEDED IN PEACEFUL MANNER, WITH UNARMED BLACK TROOPS (WITH CINC APPROVAL) MAINTAINING ORDER.

4. LUANDA TODAY LOOKS AS IF JULY 15 NEVER HAPPENED. ARMY, HOWEVER, HAS TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE. A. CINC HAS ACCEPTED DEMANDS BY BLACK TROOPS: TO PREVENT ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION BY MPS AND MOSTLY WHITE POLICE (PSPA) AGAINST BLACK DEMONSTRATORS; TO INCLUDE BLACKS IN HERETOFORE ENTIRELY WHITE MP PATROLS; AND ENSURE RACIAL BALANCE IN ALL ARMY ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL ORDER. CINC ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED COMPLAINT BY BLACK TROOPS THAT SECURITY FORCES DID NOT RESPOND SWIFTLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT EVENST OF JULY 11-12 (WHEN WHITE THUGS ATTACKED BLACKS IN CAZENGA). B. CINC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PERSONS CROSSING CHECKPOINTS SET UP AT STRATEGIC POINTS THROUGHOUT CITY WILL HAVE TO SURRENDER ANY WEAPON THEY MAY BE CARRYING. (THIS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED ON BBC AS PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY MOVEMENT BETWEEN "WHITE" AND "BLACK" SECTIONS OF CITY.) POLICE ARE PROCEEDING TO DISARM TAXI DRIVERS, TRUCK DRIVERS, SHOPKEEPERS. C. ONLY OFFICIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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RADIO BROADCASTING TODAY. THIS IS OVERDUE MEASURE. EARLY MORNING JULY 15 LOCAL RADIO WHICH IS MOST LISTENED TO BY AFRICANS BROAD-CAST IN SUCCESSION: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT URGING POPULACE TO IGNORE STRIKE WHICH WAS WORK OF AGITATORS (STATEMENT BY PORTUGUESE, AND IN LEGALISTIC LANGUAGE); EMOTIONAL STATEMENT (BY AFRICAN, IN SIMPLE PORTUGUESE) TELLING PEOPLE TO OBSERVE STRIKE; STATEMENT BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS, ADVOCATING RACIAL UNDERSTANDING (BY PORTUGUESE, IN CONVOLUTED LANGUAGE).

5. AMCITS WERE NOT AND ARE NOT IN DANGER. (REST OF ANGOLA UNAFFECTED.) WE UNDERSTAND SOME COMPANIES HAVE SENT ALARMIST CABLES TO HOME OFFICES. WE ARE SEEKING TO REASSURE THEM. SITUATION ITSELF, IF IT HOLDS, WILL BE BEST TRANQUILIZER. IT IS WORTH REMINDING OURSELVES THAT ABILITY OF POPULATION WHICH LIVES HAND TO MOUTH TO SUSTAIN VIOLENCE WHICH DISRUPTS ENTIRE SYSTEM IS LIMITED TO ABOUT 24 HOURS. POPULACE HAS NO WAY TO STORE FOOD; BREADLINES TODAY ARE HUGE.

BRIGGS

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